



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Tukwila trees inspected for signs of citrus longhorned beetle

Who: Clinton Campbell, Pest Program manager at the Department of Agriculture, will discuss plans to detect and eradicate citrus longhorned beetles in Tukwila. He will also describe what entomologists will be looking for as they inspect trees and shrubs in the quarantine area.

What: Department of Agriculture staff will demonstrate how they inspect trees from the ground; by climbing trees with ropes, harnesses, and other climbing equipment; and by inspecting trees from a bucket truck.

For the next two months, the inspectors will look for adult feeding damage, niches in bark where eggs have been deposited, and oozing sap and sawdust created when newly hatched grubs bore into trees. Later in the year, they will also look for beetles and emergence holes.

When: 9:30 a.m., Monday Feb. 11

Where: Northwest parking lot of Foster High School, 4242 S. 144th St., Tukwila. From Highway 99 (Pacific Highway S.), go east on S. 144th St. for two blocks to the four-way stop in front of Foster High School. Turn left on 42nd St. for about a block, turn into the high school parking lot on the right. State Department of Agriculture representatives will be in the parking lot.

Why: The citrus longhorned beetle attacks and eventually kills healthy hardwood trees. Forests and landscapes could be seriously damaged if the beetle becomes established in Washington. The beetle is closely related to the Asian longhorned beetle that has caused thousands of trees to be destroyed in New York City and Chicago.

Background: In August, three citrus longhorned beetles were captured in Tukwila and evidence was found that another five escaped into the environment. They were the first citrus longhorned beetles to be found out-of-doors in the U.S. A quarantine was established Nov. 27 to keep the beetle from becoming established in Washington. It restricts movement of hardwood trees and shrubs out of the area roughly ½ mile in all directions from the intersection of Macadam Road S. and S. 144th St.

For more information: Call (800) 443-6684, send e-mail to pestprogram@agr.wa.gov or visit the Department of Agriculture's Web site at agr.wa.gov/CitrusLHBeetle.htm.

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